

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



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STAFF WRITER

Through your generosity, Orphan's Promise is able to change the lives of vulnerable and orphaned children around the world. By meeting their tangible needs, we show them that they matter. That they are loved. That's what happened with little twin sisters, Shelva and Shelvi, who live in the city of Semarang, Indonesia.

These are the stories.
These are the souls.
These are the portraits of
the lives we're changing.



IN INDONESIA, LOVE IS SPELLED “ABC”





ALL WE HAVE IS EACH OTHER

Let us take you across the world for a moment—to the city of Semarang, the capital of Central Java province in Indonesia, deep into a chaotic, crowded marketplace.

In the midst of the dirt and shouting and bargaining, there are two small girls selling gasoline and newspapers. They are only eight years old, and this dirty, unprotected market is often their home. Sometimes they sleep in the open market building. Other times, they work as illegal parking attendants in the market, trying to flag down drivers in the crowded streets and help them park their cars to make a little extra money.



Over 11% of the population of Indonesia still lives below the nationally defined poverty line. **Many of those who remain poor and vulnerable are children.**

Shelva and Shelvi are twin sisters, and their life was not always like this. But when their mother passed away, the stability they had depended on seemed to slip away with her. After their father remarried, Shelva and Shelvi were sent, along with their younger brother and sister, to live with their grandmother a half-hour walk away. The twins still help out their father, who struggles with alcoholism, by continuing to sell gasoline and newspapers at the market, but the money they earn barely covers simple meals—let alone tuition for school.

Spending their days unprotected in the rough environment of the market has begun to have an impact on Shelva and Shelvi. **Although they have each other, the twins have become more and more isolated, rarely socializing with other children and beginning to show the behavioral signs of low self-esteem.** The lifestyle and character examples they are exposed to on a daily basis—of how people treat each other and speak to one another—is impacting the little girls too, as their vocabulary is becoming ruder and coarser. Most importantly, though, there is no one showing them that their hearts matter. That their futures matter. That their stories are worth fighting for. It’s a dark and difficult thing to feel so alone in the world, especially at such a young age. No child should feel that way.

WE ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

That’s when a local church stepped in, providing Shelva and Shelvi with a scholarship to attend School of Life at a local church, which partners with Orphan’s Promise to provide education to street children.

It happened slowly at first, but Shelva and Shelvi are now beginning to blossom as they experience love at the School of Life (SOL). This love looks like lessons in good manners, dignity, kindness, and honesty that they were not learning due to their





According to UNICEF, **an estimated 2.7 million children are involved in some form of child labor in Indonesia**, and around half of them are under age 13. Children work in all sectors, often under difficult or dangerous conditions. Like Shelva and Shelvi, most cannot attend school.

previous neglect. It also looks like learning healthy life habits and behaviors, replacing the destructive behaviors that the sisters were exposed to in the market at such a formative age. Love looks like help with math homework, patience while learning the alphabet for the first time, and the consistency of a daily schedule. It also looks like steadily and tenderly being disciplined by School of Life staff so that they could know and receive Jesus as their God and Savior.



Semarang is the capital and largest city of Central Java province in Indonesia. The population of the city is approximately 1.8 million people, making it Indonesia's seventh-most-populous city.

Even though they technically should be in third grade at this point, Shelva and Shelvi are currently in the first grade of elementary school. They are both working hard to overcome the generational strongholds of poverty and lack of education, as well as the neglect they experienced at such a young age. As proof of their hard work, both girls can now read, write, and count!

How you can pray for this project:

One of the most powerful places to advocate for vulnerable and at-risk children is on our knees. Please join us in praying for Shelvi and Shelva and their future as cherished children of God. Here are a few prayer points to get you started:

Pray for Shelvi and Shelva to continue studying hard at school, healing and growing.

Ask the Lord to provide both girls with a bright future and the ability to have a positive impact on their family and the surrounding community, for them to be examples of God's love.

Pray for their family to trust God and receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Ask the Lord to provide additional funds so that the twins' little sister and brother can also go to school and benefit from a safe environment to learn, play, and grow.

Lift up the entire School of Life staff and team, that the Lord would bless and strengthen them as they provide a safe haven for vulnerable children.

Pray for the millions of other children like Shelva and Shelvi, that they would come to know and experience the love of God in a tangible way.



One of the twins' favorite School of Life activities is the music and tambourine rehearsal held at SOL every Monday. They definitely know how to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! The biggest victory, though, is seeing the smiles on these two beautiful young girls' faces. You can hardly recognize the lonely, neglected twins in these radiant young women. Under the consistent and caring presence of School of Life staff, Shelva and Shelvi have become known for their cheerful, confident, and courageous attitudes. They study diligently and are well-behaved with their teachers and fellow students. Now, they know they are loved. They know they are worth investing in. They know they matter.

Today, the twins are nine years old and their biggest hope for the future is that their little brother and sister might be able to receive the funds needed to pay for the tuition to attend school and enjoy the same life transformation that they have. With Shelva and Shelvi paving the way, we believe their family has a bright future.





Automate Your Impact!

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please fill out the enclosed "You Pledge, We Pledge" form and return it in the Business Reply Envelope. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

If you'd like to give a special gift to Orphan's Promise, there are four easy ways you can give:

- 1** Give online by visiting OrphansPromise.org/Promise
- 2** Text **PROMISE** to **71777** and give from your mobile phone
- 3** Call **1-800-818-4016** to give by phone
- 4** You can **mail a check** made out to Orphan's Promise to:

Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

**Thanks for your generosity.
We look forward to making a difference together.**



orphan's**promise**



give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

orphanspromise.org

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